CLASSIFICATION TOP SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS [redacted]

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [redacted]

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT Status of Soviet Nickel Fine Wire Mesh Program

25X1A PLACE ACQUIRED [redacted]

25X1X DATE OF INFO. [redacted]

DATE DISTR. 15 June 1951

NO. OF PAGES 15

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

[redacted]

PART ONE: TEWA/NEUSTADT (Formerly the EILHAUER FIRM)

I. TEWA/Neustadt Position in the East Zone Wire Screen Industry

TEWA/Neustadt plays a dual role in the East Zone wire screen industry. Its principal function is the production of nickel wire screen. In addition, TEWA/Neustadt serves as the focal point for receiving and distributing screen orders and materials to certain weaving plants in the East Zone, and as a collection point of the finished screen. Secondarily, it also makes and furnishes reeds to its subcontractors. The two people-owned plants, TEWA/Graefenthal and TEWA/Raguhn, work as subcontractors of TEWA/Neustadt; and the privately-owned plant PABST und KILIAN (having 10 looms for metal cloth mainly, of which two are making no. 231 screen) as a subcontractor of TEWA/Raguhn. TEWA/Neustadt provides reeds to the privately-owned firm Baderschneider und Lenzner, Zeulenroda, who, however, receive their screen orders independently.

II. Personnel at TEWA/Neustadt

1. TEWA/Neustadt has a total crew of 420, two-thirds of which are women and one-tenth of which belong to the works administration. Source gives the following indications on certain principals:

Alletsee, Maximilian - Works director (Werksleiter); member of the Christian-Democratic Union. Though not a Communist, he is collaborating with the East Zone regime. There are, however, many indications that his collaboration is due more to force of circumstances than to inner conviction. He once was said to have remarked, "We all are stuck with the system, but nobody can look into our hearts." Alletsee's position is shaky because of the poor quality of the TEWA/Neustadt output.

25X1A

Mein, Arthur - Production chief (Produktionsleiter); next in [redacted]

CLASSIFICATION TOP SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

NAVY	NSRB	DISTRIBUTION	
AIR	FBI		

RETURN TO ARCHIVES & RECORDS CENTER IMMEDIATELY AFTER USE

JOB ___ BOX 84

[redacted]

III. Reed Manufacture (Comb Manufacture)

1. Sources and Supply of Essential Materials

a. A sufficient supply of four critical raw materials — lamellael band steel, spring-steel-wire, binding wire and half-round-wire — constitute a major problem in reed manufacture.

b. Applied to TEWA/Neustadt, the situation as of mid-May was as follows:

(1) Lamellae Band Steel

On hand - sufficient Russian lamellae steel for 10 No. 231 reeds, 100 kg of which is stored as entirely unserviceable.

En route - 152 kg of Russian steel via Karlshorst.

Reserve - 38 kg of Swedish steel from Sanvikon for No. 270 reeds, 10,000 meshes per centimeter; 7kg of Swedish steel for No. 300 reeds, about 13,000 meshes per square centimeter; 8 to 10 kg of Swedish steel for reeds of calibers lower than No. 231.

The above-mentioned Swedish steel is all from purchases made in 1950. As no new Swedish steel could be procured, the use of Russian lamellae band steel was begun in March 1951. The Russian material arrives at irregular intervals and is sent to TEWA/Neustadt for distribution. TEWA apportions the steel to TEWA/Neustadt, the Kuefner Plant, and the Drahtwebstuhlbau plants. 70 kg. arrived at the end of March 1951 and 90 kg during the latter part of April 1951. The Russian steel is of very poor quality, most of it reject. Where 1.6 kg of Swedish steel sufficed for one reed, 3.6 kg of Russian steel must be used. Hence the use of Russian steel entails much more waste. (A sample of the Russian steel is attached for NED/OSI)

Reeds made from the Russian steel are shorter lived than those from the Swedish steel. Much working time and capacity are used in repairs and in changing reeds made from this material. Thus far, because of the great variances, it is difficult to estimate the average life of a reed made from the Russian steel. A small percentage will survive the production of 250 meters of screen, while of the majority some will be rejected before use or will need repairs after only 40 meters of service. The handicap in the use of Russian steel is flagrant when the life of reeds from it is compared to that of reeds from Swedish material which averaged 500 to 600 meters per reed; when carefully handled, 1,000 meters and more.

(2) Spring-Steel-Wire

Spring-steel-wire is used for keeping the lamellae straight and evenly distanced. The springs are soldered between the lamellae on both rail sides. Spring steel wire is made from very hard chrome-nickel steel, which is imported from West Germany. The yearly demand for spring-steel-wire in the TEWA/Neustadt shop is 5 to 6 kg. This amount has been ordered from the firm Sassenscheid, Einsahl, Westphalia. Word was received during the first part of May that this amount had been dispatched and was to be picked up at Hundesalon Dernow, Wilmersdorferstrasse 145, Berlin-Wilmersdorf. One Selig, fnu, thought to be from the Industry Ministry in Berlin, picks up these packages, then Konirsch of TEWA collects them from Selig for TEWA/Neustadt.

(3) Binding Wire

Binding wire, which is made from very soft monel steel, is used for binding the lamellae ends upon the rails. Up until very recently this wire was imported from West Germany. The situation has now changed, however, as import from West Germany has become more and more difficult and East Germany is faced with the problem of producing its own binding wire.

This wire must have a diameter of 0.058 to 0.060 mm for No. 231 reeds; deviations of one thousandth of a millimeter are absolutely crucial. Until April 1951 no drawing plant in East Germany could draw this caliber even from supplies of monel steel of a definite dimension.

In the early part of May 1951 a package of 58 spools (about 5 kg) of binding wire arrived from Sassenscheid via the Hundesalon in Berlin-Wilmersdorf. This wire, however, turned out to be too hard and was sent back to the Sassenscheid firm. This left the TEWA shop entirely deprived of servicable binding wire. In desperation, Sassenscheid then sent 240 grams of binding wire from an old store of the C.J. Vogel firm to be thinned down at once. After this was done, no other supply of serviceable binding wire was available at the shop.

At present TEWA/Neustadt has on hand 12 kg of 0.062 to 0.070 monel steel wire, which is by far too thick for No. 231 and finer reeds. This represents approximately a year's supply of binding wire. TEWA/Neustadt entered into negotiations with the Kupfer und Messingwerke drawing plant in Hettstedt to refine this wire to the proper dimensions. The first samples of this refined wire were received by TEWA/Neustadt on approximately 20 April 1951 and upon testing proved entirely satisfactory. If the redrawing continues to be satisfactory, the binding wire problem will apparently be solved for at least a year. So far no quantity, other than these original samples, has been returned, however. It is believed that the successful redrawing is due to the merit of Eng. Seidel at Kupfer und Messingwerke.

(4) Half-Round-Wire

Half-round-wire is used in the soldering process. Two lengths of the wire are placed upon both reed rails where the lamellae are fastened to them; the lamellae are then soldered upon the rails. Half-round-wire formerly came from West Germany, but in the future will be provided by a plant in Weissenfels, Soviet Zone of Germany.

(5) Pumice Stone

Pumice stone is also needed in reed manufactury. This stone is imported from the West German firm of Schuhmacher, location unknown. (Another source has named this firm as the Schumacher'sche Fabrik, which is located in Bietigheim, Württemberg, U.S. Zone, Germany, which manufactures synthetic pumice stone.) Attempts were made to use pumice stone furnished by KWU (Kommanuales Wietschaftsunternehmen), Sonneberg, Thuringia, Soviet Zone, but the samples tried thus far have been inadequate. Efforts are being made to improve these stones so as to render them useable in reed manufacture.

2. Reed Production

a. As long as Swedish lamellae steel was available the output of reeds ordered by the Soviets for the TEWA/Neustadt shop was 22 No. 231 reeds per month. However, after the Swedish steel was exhausted in February 1951, no new order was received until the latter part of April when a new quota of 35 reeds per month was set for TEWA/Neustadt. (Another reliable source has given this order as 30 reeds per month, to include calibers other than No. 231. The order was transmitted by Director Jarosch.) Fulfillment of this order, however, is said to be entirely out of the question.

b. On 12 April 1951 Works Director Alletsee called a meeting of personnel involved in reed production of the reed manufacturing situation as it had recently developed. Those participating, in addition to Alletsee, were Production Chief Hein, reed manufacturer Hans Hoefer and Technical Director Jarosch of TEWA/Neustadt and TEWA/Chemnitz. Jarosch pointed out that the reeds made from the new Russian material were failures due to the poor quality of the steel, and also that, to aggravate an already bad situation, the supply of spring-steel-wire and binding-wire was almost exhausted. At Jarosch's suggestion, Hein put through a telephone call to Sassenscheid in Einsahl, West Phalia, British Zone, Germany, to ask if they could immediately dispatch a supply of these two items. Sassenscheid replied in the affirmative. The following day Hein was informed that the wire had already been dispatched via Fuessen, West Berlin.

Alletsee also announced at the meeting that TEWA/Neustadt and the Drahtwebstuhlbau/Neustadt had received new orders from the Soviets. The latter firm, however, unable to handle a new order at the time, declined theirs. Alletsee then urged Karl Kuefner to take over the TEWA/Neustadt order and requested that he prepare an offer to produce 157 reeds of various calibers and send it immediately to Smirnov of the Russian trade representation at Brunnenstrasse, Berlin 54. Kuefner reportedly agreed to do so upon the understanding that the requisite material would be provided. The final offer submitted by Kuefner to the Soviets was as follows:

110 No. 212.5 reeds made from Swedish 7 x 0.055 mm. lamellae band steel.

47 reeds between No. 250 and No. 350 made from Swedish 7 x 0.045 to 7 x 0.035 mm. lamellae band steel.

The total value of these reeds would be approximately 122,000 DM. In order to fulfill this offer of production, Kuefner reportedly requested that he be provided with 314 kg of Swedish lamellae band steel of first quality and the required dimensions, as well as with the necessary amounts of chrome-nickel, spring-steel-wire, monel binding wire and other necessary material.

In the latter part of April, TEWA/Neustadt was asked to take over this 157 reed order. As Swedish steel was then unavailable, Russian material was to be used. TEWA, however, gave notification that it was unable to produce these reeds.

c. Following is the production of No. 231 reeds at TEWA/Neustadt for the period of November 1950 to Mid-May 1951:

November 1950 to January 1951 - average 22 to 24 per month

January 1951 - 24 reeds, 17 of which 1 meter; 7, 1.20mm., an width

February 1951 - 14 reeds, 10 one meter; 4, 1.20 meter

March 1951 - 13 or 14 reeds (beginning the use of the Russian steel)

April 1951 - 12 No. 231 reeds from Russian material

Mid-May 1951 - 5 No. 231 reeds; the quota for one month was 15.

25X1X [redacted], in April, TEWA hit a low of two reeds per week, due partly to the absence of its key-binder because of illness, and partly to the poor quality of the material.) As of mid-May, two No. 231 reed manufacturing machines were in operation at the TEWA/Neustadt shop.

d. The quality of the reeds produced at TEWA from the new Russian material is even poorer than that of the reeds produced at the Kuefner shop and require a high percentage of repairs. Individual reeds might possibly have a life of up of 250 m. However, the average will not likely exceed 100 meters.

e. The present low capacity of the TEWA/Neustadt reed manufacturing shop is certain to hamper seriously screen production in the Soviet Zone. Baderschneider und Lenzner, Zeulenroda, Thuringia, have urgently requested delivery of 10 No. 231 reeds for 100 cm. and 120 cm.-width screen for the latter part of May. Filling this order is impossible.

f. In addition to the manufacture of reeds, TEWA/Neustadt also does repairs on reeds for No. 120 to No. 300 bronze wire screen for the chemical industry of the Soviet Zone, specifically for Leuna, Agfa-Wolfen, Buena-Schkopau, and other firms.

25X1A g [redacted] estimate that due to the shortage of qualified personnel, the future production and repair capacity of the TEWA shop will be zero.

IV. FINE WIRE SCREEN PRODUCTION

1. Russo-German Conference in Neustadt on the Improvement of Nickel Wire Screen

a. On 12 April 1951 a Russo-German conference on fine nickel wire screen problems was held at TEWA/Neustadt. Schneider, fnu, of the Hauptausschuss Maschinenbau, Berlin, presided. Other Germans attending were as follows:

Kuemmel	- Rohrig and Diterich of the Ministry for Light Industry, Berlin
Keiters Wissenberger	- Both of the Reparations Department, Erfurt
Zufall	- Chief Director at TEWA/Neustadt
Hein	- Production Chief, TEWA/Neustadt
Schubert	- Betriebsgewerkschaftaleiter, TEWA/Neustadt
Petzold	- As an expert consultant, from Saechsische Webstuhlfabriken (formerly Schoenherr firm), Chemnitz. [redacted] Comment; this enterprise belongs to the textile loom industry. His presence was said to be without significance, other than his good relations with TEWA/Chemnitz.)
Mailbeck, Robert	- Technical Director of TEWA/Neustadt

25X1A

Heilbrechtsmeier, Karl - Technical Director, Drahtwebstuhlbau

The following Soviets attended:

Tschernitschenkov - About 1.78, slender; dark-blond hair; dark eyes, no spectacles; full round face, clean-shaven; elegantly clothed as a civilian; behaves with distinction; gives overall impression of tough, strong, sportsmanlike, elastic person.

Also two unidentified Russians from Karlshorst, who came with Tschernitschenkov, believed to belong to the Reparations Department, Karlshorst.

Palilov - from the Soviet Administration in Weimar

Bajandurov - from the Soviet Administration in Weimar

Prijotka - Liaison between the Administration and TEWA/Neustadt, going to Neustadt almost every day.

b. The prime object of the conference was to find means of improving the quality of No. 231 nickel wire screen being produced in the people-owned enterprises in Thuringia, and was called as a result of sharp reprimands from the Soviets on the poor quality of the screen being produced. Criticism was directed mainly at the output of TEWA/Neustadt and TEWA/Raguhn. Quality percentages of the four plants compared as follows:

TEWA/Neustadt - 50% to 60% first quality screen; remainder second and reject. ([redacted] source denies the validity of these figures, and affirms the average percentage of first quality to be between 60% and 65%. All concerned, however, agree that TEWA/Neustadt ranks lowest for first quality screen, closely followed by TEWA/Raguhn.) 25X1X

TEWA/Raguhn - Very little better than TEWA/Neustadt.

TEWA/Graefenthal - Between 85% and 91% first quality; very little reject, and remainder second quality.

Baderschneider und Leuzner - Up to 94% first quality, attained in March 1951; only about 2% reject, remainder second.

(Comment: Contrary to some reports, Pabst und Kilian are still engaged in the production of No. 231 wire screen, but not on their own; they are subcontractors of TEWA/Raguhn. No quality figures were available for this firm.)

c. Kuemmel remarked during the course of discussion that conditions at TEWA/Neustadt had to be changed immediately and that an output of 90% first quality wire screen must be attained within a period of four weeks. One of the Germans present remarked that one of the principal reasons for the poor quality of the screen was the poor condition of TEWA/Neustadt's machine park. The looms had been in operation too long without repair and the reeds were of poor quality; he added that a general overhauling of the entire machine park was urgently needed. It was decided that a thorough investigation of the machine park should be conducted. (See para 2(a) below). In addition, it was announced that the following steps would also immediately be taken to meet the emergency situation:**Jarosch and Forster were to stay in Neustadt for a period of 14 days to support Mailbeck in his effort to improve the quality of output.**Mailbeck was to remain in Neustadt to take over the technical direction of TEWA/Neustadt in addition to the technical direction of TEWA/Graefenthal.

2. Equipment

a. As a result of the above-mentioned Russo-German conference of 12 April, a thorough investigation of the TEWA/Neustadt machine park was conducted in order to determine measures necessary to improve the quality of the nickel wire screen produced at TEWA. This investigation was carried out from 14 through 17 April. The results, which were reported to TEWA/ Chemnitz and to the DDR, were as follows:

(1) None of the 67 looms used for the manufacture of fine nickel wire screen was in perfect operating condition.

(2) 16 of the looms were taken out of production, condemned as entirely unserviceable.

(3) About 40% of the remaining looms needed major repairs; about 60% needed small repairs.

(4) Most of the reeds in the looms were in such bad condition that they could not be expected to last long.

b. Another source, [redacted] claims that prior to 17 Ap[redacted]25X1X 1947, (sic) 66 looms were in operation for the manufacture of No. 231 fine wire screen; since that date, 47 have been working. Nineteen looms were withdrawn from production because they were overworked and badly in need of repairs. These nineteen looms are not to be returned to No. 231 screen production. An attempt will be made refit them for the making of finer screen of calibers from 8,000 meshes per square centimeter upwards. (Comment: There is a slight discrepancy in the figures given in paras 1 and 2 above. [redacted] claims that 16 of 67 looms used were withdrawn, wh[redacted] 2 maintains that 19 of 66 were withdrawn. It is possible that three additional looms were removed after the 16 of para 1(b) were withdrawn. It is believed that the figure 19 is correct as the source of this figure was in a better position to known the exact number. S[redacted]6X1X to know, reports that as of about 10 May 1949 looms were in operation for the weaving of No. 231 nickel wire screen, and further that about a month prior to that date 15 looms had been withdrawn from No. 231 screen production to be overhauled and then utilized in making bronze wire screen of varying calibers. These discrepancies are probably due to the fact that two or three looms are always out of operation of the purpose of overhaul.)

25X1X

c. The last looms to be added to the TEWA/Neustadt machine park were five transferred from the following firms:

Paschold und Doeger, Saafeld	- 1 in August 1950
Lose in Meiningen	- 2 in September 1950
Gottschalk in Neustadt	- 1 in September 1950
Weiss und Eschrich in Ludwigstadt, US Zone	- 1 in September 1950, now stored at Groesselsdorf near Graefenthal.

3. Raw Materials

A. Nickel Wire

The chief raw material for the manufacture of wire screen is the nickel wire. The drawn wire used in the production of No. 231 screen is supplied by the Kupfer und Messingwerke in Hettstedt and by the C. J. Vogel works in East Berlin/Koepenick. The nickel for this wire is supplied to these two firms by the Soviets.

The first drawing of the wire, from the raw nickel, is done at the Auerhammer rolling mill in Saxony. After having been drawn here to a certain caliber, the wire is then sent to Kupfer und Messing and to the Vogel works for further drawing or refining. No reason has been given for the fact that the incoming nickel is first delivered to Kupfer und Messing when the initial process takes place at Auerhammer. [redacted] admitted the possibility 25X1X
that Kupfer und Messing may also do some first drawing, but insists that most of the Russian nickel is first drawn at Auerhammer. From Auerhammer the wire goes back to Kupfer und Messing and to Vogel for refinement. When it has been finished down to the desired caliber, it is wound upon spools, packed in wooden boxes, and shipped to TEWA/Neustadt.

The drawn wire is wound on aluminum spools, of which Kupfer und Messing has two kinds, one which bears 5,000 meters of wire, the other 8,000 to 9,000 meters. Vogel supplies only the 5,000-meter size.

At TEWA/Neustadt the wire is sorted according to strength into that to be used for the warp (Kette, chain) and that for the woof (Schuss, shot). Thus sorted, the wire is packed separately and sent to the weaving firms. TEWA retaining its share. Any reserve supply is stored at TEWA/Neustadt.

This wire is picked up once a week at the Hettstedt and Berlin plants by Adolf Konirsch, an employee of TEWA/Neustadt charged with this function. No significant quantities of this wire are now in reserve at TEWA/Neustadt; only the weekly needs for the enterprise and its subcontractors are kept on hand.

The nickel wire furnished by Kupfer und Messingwerke and the Vogel works for the production of No. 231 screen has recently deteriorated in quality to such a point that the manufacture of first quality screen is seriously affected. The chief trouble is that the wire is frequently deformed, having tapered spots (Verjuengungsstellen).

B. Heald Steel

Another critical item for screen production is heald steel (Litzenstahl) needed for the healds or heddles of the looms. These parts require frequent renewal. This steal is provided by the Drahtwebstuhlbau firm in Neustadt, which has supplies of it. (According to one source, the present supply of heald steel at Drahtwebstuhlbau is about 800 kg. Drahtwebstuhlbau draws its heald steel from the Westig firm in Unna, Westphalia.)

4. Fine Nickel Wire Screen Production

A. After the wire is received at the weaving plants and before the actual weaving of the screen can begin, certain precise preparatory steps must be taken. These steps and the weaving itself involve the use of specially trained and experienced personnel.

(1) First, the wire goes to the warping shop (Zettelei), where it is wound on rolls that are later to be mounted on the weaving machines. This is exacting work and requires a great degree of accuracy and experience. The work is done by masters or foremen; ordinary weavers are unable to do it.

(2) Still in the warping shop, the wire is next passed through the heddles of the harness (Geschirre) so that it can be carried through the reed. Though this is an important part of the process, usually masters or foremen are not required to do it and it is entrusted to clever weavers, most of whom are women. This process, as a rule, takes six days per machine, when done by experienced operators.

(3) Next, the roll is mounted upon the weaving machine, the harness set, and the machine prepared for the weaving to begin. This work requires understanding, experience, and cleverness, and only the most expert masters of foremen can do it satisfactorily. This process takes from two days to a week, depending on the skill of the worker.

(4) Finally, comes the weaving itself. Weavers must not necessarily be highly skilled labor so long as their work is supervised by a master or foreman. Of course, there are different degrees of skill to be found among weavers which will determine the kind of supervision required. There are weavers of long experience who do not need a great deal of supervision, and occasionally one who can handle work ordinarily done by masters.

B. Under favorable conditions, a roll of wire will last about two months and then the mounting process must be repeated by a master. But even when a machine, during the weaving time, is served by the best qualified weavers, its functioning and product must be constantly supervised by a master. The tension of the wire must be continually checked, "streets" eliminated when they appear, and mechanical troubles adjusted. Hence, the master is the most important person in the weaving process and is the most difficult to replace.

C. The principal product of TEWA/Neustadt is No. 231 nickel wire screen on order of the Soviet Reparations Office. The monthly output of this screen had varied between 6,000 and 7,000 square meters during the last few months. The figure for March 1951 was 6,000 square meters; for April 1951, up to the latter part of the month, approximately 4,000. Of these amounts 60% to 65% is first quality; 20% to 25% second quality; and from 10% to 20% is reject.

D. The most recent information of TEWA/Neustadt's output is that since the withdrawal of the looms for repair, the quality of No. 231 screen has improved considerably. As of the early part of May, the percentage of first-quality screen had risen to 78% and 79%.

5. Production Orders Placed Through TEWA/Neustadt by the Soviets

A. Production orders from the Soviets go to TEWA/Neustadt to be apportioned to the manufacturers. TEWA/Neustadt and its subcontractors were asked to produce 60,000 square meters of No. 231 nickel wire screen from 1 January through 31 May 1951. ([redacted] have given this figure as 56,000 and 58,000.) Baderschneider und Lenzner has an independent order for 30,000 square meters to be completed within the same period of time. 25X1X

B. About the beginning of April 1951 the Soviets placed an additional order for 35,000 square meters of No. 231 screen to be completed by the end of September 1951; or if very high quality screen is produced, by the end of October 1951. No decision has yet been reached as to which enterprise will fill the order. TEWA/Neustadt, people-owned, and Baderschneider und Lenzner, privately owned, are in competition for this assignment. The orders are heavily in favor of Baderschneider und Lenzner because of their much higher percentage of first quality output than TEWA/Neustadt.

C. The following reasons are given for the superiority of Baderschneider und Lenzner product: (a) More technical experience due to the continuity of the firm's leadership and technical staff, (b) the obtaining of the best reeds distributed by TEWA/Neustadt and (c) the fact that Baderschneider und Lenzner usually operate their combs for a short time only and then put them in reserve for later use. (Rotation of the combs in this manner not only provides them with an uncontrolled reserve of combs but also improves the quality of the combs. A new comb that is to be stored will be better protected against corrosion and other detrimental influences if it is used for a period before storing.); and (d) the better storage and care of the rare material.

D. Both firms want the new order. At the emergency meeting of the main technicians of TEWA/Neustadt which was attended by the Soviets for the purpose of finding means of improving the quality of the TEWA screen the Soviets made it amply clear to TEWA that the latter firm did not receive the order unless it could reach 90% of first quality screen in its output in a short time.

E. About 15 April 1951 TEWA/Neustadt received an inquiry from DAHA/Berlin asking on behalf of the Soviets if TEWA could produce fine bronze wire screen in quality and specifications as follows:

No. 200	(about 6,500 meshes)	about 650 square meters
No. 240	(" 9,000 ")	" 850 " "
No. 270	(" 10,000 ")	" 750 " "
No. 300	(" 14,000 ")	" 750 " "
No. 320	(" 16,000 ")	" 1,000 " "
No. 350	(" 17,000 ")	" 850 " "

DAHA stated that TEWA/Neustadt would have to provide the necessary raw material and combs for the making of this screen. TEWA has a reserve of combs for screen of these calibers, but they are not in good condition. Up to April 20, it was not yet decided whether TEWA would accept such an order.

(COMMENT: (1) One source claims that Allelsee had said that he had declined the production of No. 350 screen. (2) It is not clear whether or not the order to Knefner through TEWA for 157 combs of various calibers has any connection with this order for screen. The breakdown into 150 combs of No. 212.5 and No. 250, and 17 combs of numbers corresponding almost exactly to the finer numbers listed above, however, would indicate that it does. (3) So far it has been impossible to determine the purpose for which this screen was intended.

6. Disposition of Finished Screen

All finished screen is deposited at TEWA/Neustadt by the subcontractors and is picked up about once a week by four or five trucks. Before the first of January 1951 these trucks came from the Derutra transportation firm. Since that time, however, Soviet trucks having license plates [redacted] have been calling for the screen. 25X1B

7. Disposal of Reject Material

All reject screen is stored at TEWA/Neustadt. Between 7,000 and 8,000 square meters are in storage at the present time. About 50% of this amount is first and second quality reject because it was cut into too small pieces. The Soviets would not release this reject material to the Soviet Zone industry. After long drawn out negotiations with the Germans on the subject, the Soviets decided to take this reject screen for themselves.

8. Future Status of TEWA/Neustadt

Works Director Alletsee has reportedly stated that the status of TEWA/Neustadt is to be changed. The plant will be taken from the TEWAs and placed directly under the control of the DDR, and will be headed by Volkskammer Deputy Straube of Berlin, who represents Thuringia in the East Zone Parliament.

PART TWO: TEWA/GRAEFENTHAL

(Formerly called MESIFA (Metallsiebwaren Fabrik))

I. Personnel at TEWA/Graefenthal

1. TEWA/Graefenthal has a total crew of some 140, of which about 80 are women and 12 administrative personnel. In the production of No. 231 screem, the work is carried on in three shifts, each headed by a master who is an expert screen technician. The three are:

   Mueller, Karl - about 42; nominal SED member, but in reality not a convinced Communist.

   Krause, Felix - about 45; nominal SED member, but in reality not a convinced Communist.

   Rank, Fritz - about 57; nominal SED member, but in reality not a convinced Communist.

   Administrative personnel:

   Froechtling, Alfred - Works director; a convinced Communist without technical understanding and experience.

   Kalischke, fnu - Betriebsgewerkschaftsleiter; also convinced Communist.

2. The technical direction of TEWA/Graefenthal has been under Robert Mailbeck since August 1950, when he was transferred from TEWA/Neustadt. According to Source, Mailbeck was transferred as a result of reproaches levelled [redacted] 25X1C

   His brother Otto was transferred with him, but returned to TEWA/Neustadt after a short time.

   As technical director at TEWA/Graefenthal, Mailbeck raised the production standards so much that in recognition of his attainment he was made in addition technical head of TEWA/Neustadt on 12 April 1951. The task assigned him was to raise the quality of TEWA/Neustadt production to that of TEWA/Graefenthal in a short time. This goal, however, was not attained.

II. Production at TEWA/Graefenthal

1. TEWA/Graefenthal has fifteen machines participating in No. 231 screen production. Other screen of lower calibers is also made by them for consumption in the Soviet Zone. Orders for 2180 square meters of No. 231 screen have been passed to TEWA/Graefenthal by TEWA/Neustadt each month since August 1950. The actual monthly output has been about 2,000 square meters, with little variation.

2. Among the people-owned screen factories, TEWA/Graefenthal holds first rank in quality of 231 screen. The 90-percent mark for first quality screen has repeatedly been reached. In March 1951, the percentages ran: 85 first quality, about 15 second quality, and practically no reject.

III. Security Measures at TEWA/Graefenthal

The guard of the plant consists of a chief (Wachleiter) and four factory policemen (Betriebsschutz). They work in shifts so that two of them are always in the premises of the factory. Though former employees of the plant, they are now under the authority of the Volkspolizei.

IV. Future Plans for TEWA/Graefenthal

As of 1 May 1951 TEWA/Graefenthal was scheduled to be administratively combined with TEWA/Neustadt under a common works direction. So far as is presently known, this plan was in the deliberation stage and not yet completed.

PART THREE: KARL KUEFNER SHOP

I. Past Production

1. Until the end of 1950 Karl Kuefner worked with a crew of nine in his shop, producing 40 reeds per month. As of the middle of March, he had four assistants, including his wife. At that time he averaged 12 reeds per month. With a crew of four, Kuefner estimated that he should be able to reach a monthly output of 20 reeds. The low output of 12 per month was due to the shortage of raw material.

2. Until the end of 1950 the reed binding shops in the Soviet Zone were provided with Swedish steel which arrived by air from the USSR. In 1951, after the cessation of Swedish steel, reed steel was delivered from Russia. This steel arrived in the form of lamellae band steel, wrapped in a sort of cigarette paper imprinted with French inscriptions and packed in boxes labeled with Russian inscriptions. The Russian reed steel, however, proved to be of inferior quality and unfit for the fabrication of reeds which would meet the rigid standards required. The Russian band steel is not straight, but has small waves (this waviness is its greatest drawback), with the result that the nickel wires, passing through the reed, leave dirt and impurties upon the reed lamellae. This, in turn, causes "streets" to appear in the screen. The lamellae, furthermore, are not polished as they should be, but are etched (geatzt); the edges of the lamellae, instead of being round, are sharp; the thickness of the lamellae, which should be rigidly 0.055mm, actually varies between 0.052 and 0.062 mm. Consequently, reeds from this material were of very inferiou quality.

3. After a reed was produced, it was tested for "streets". As far as Kuefner's production was concerned, this was done twice: once by Kuefner himself, and once after the finished reeds were delivered to TEWA/Neustadt, where they were tested with a magnifying glass (lupe). The "street" allowance made by the Russians for reeds is 95 microns for No. 231 reeds.

4. By the end of April 1951, 210 kg. of the Russian steel had arrived in Neustadt/Orla. Approximately only one-third could be used for reeds, the remainder being waste. Contrary to his previous estimates, Kuefner was, by the end of April, producing only 2 reeds per week from the Russian material.

5. Kuefner was repeatedly summoned by Works Director Alletsee and production chief Hein of TEWA/Neustadt and urged to increase his output. He allegedly countered their demands by pointing out that it was entirely senseless to make more reeds from such bad material, because the majority of reeds made from it would be rejected. Alletsee told him, however that the Soviets had made it clear they wanted increased production even if two out of every three reeds had to be rejected. Life of reeds from this steel has varied from 15 meters of screen to 200 meters. The average life of such reeds will fall much below the 200 mark.

II. Present and Future Production

It is estimated that the present comb production of the Kuefner shop is zero, and will remain so.

PART FOUR: DRAHTWEBSTUHLBAU [illegible] SHOP (formerly JAEGER)

I. This shop does not produce No. 231 combs, but does repair such combs. It is now engaged in producing 93 combs varying in calibers between No. 50 and No. 80 for the paper industry. The shop has had difficulty in having either its repair work on old combs or its new combs passed by the new acceptance official Kursin. Kursin, who came to his position as acceptance official -- also charged with receiving the screen produced by the TEWAs -- at the end of March 1951 and believed to be living in Weimar, is very severe, and has so far rejected all No. 231 combs repaired by this shop.

II. Toward the middle of April 1951 Works Director Hause ordered the production of three new combs since the Soviets had rejected all the repaired combs. Arthur Jahn, head of the Drahtwebstuhlbau comb manufacturer shop, produced the combs but they were also rejected. At the beginning of April 1951, Hause summoned Karl Kuefner and Hans Hoefer of TEWA/Neustadt to test the reeds repaired in his shop before they were turned over to Kursin. The two men did so and found them to be unfit. On 16 April they were again summoned by Hause, who asked them to bind a comb of one-meter length from new reed material at his dispisition to determine if it was any better than that used thus far. They bound 10 centimeters of a reed and went no further because the material was entirely unfit. This steel was supposed to be Swedish lamellae band from the Sandviken firm; Source believes, however, that it was actually of Swedish origin, but had been taken out of the process of manufacture at too early a stage. Keiters of the Reparations Department in Weimar thereupon ordered Carl Herbrechtsmeier, engineer and supervisor of comb manufacturing of Drahtwebstuhlbau, to test and assess the steel; he entirely corroborated the others' assessment. A four-meter length, therefore, is to be cut from each roll of the material and sent to VEB Carl Zeiss, Jena, for thorough optical testing.

III. 1. From 1948 on ([redacted] as "during 1950") 600 reeds were shipped by Drahtwebstuhlbau (Jaeger) to the USSR. These reeds were of all degrees of fineness from numbers 80, 90, 100, etc., up to 250, 270, 300 and 400. Among these, there were only two No. 230 reeds. Seven of the finest numbers were produced in 1948 and delivered at the end of that year to Russia. In March or April 1950, the Russians canceled the order, as far as all numbers exceeding No. 270 were concerned, and asked delivery of a corresponding amount of No. 225 reeds. Thus a total of 222 reeds of this caliber were delivered. Reportedly no other reed export to the USSR occurred. 25X1X

2. These reeds were made from Swedish steel; nevertheless, many corroded. By the end of February 1951, 150 of these reeds with corrosion damage arrived back in Neustadt to be repaired. However, they will not be returned to Russia. They were to have been utilized by TEWA/Neustadt, but as of mid-May, TEWA had so far refused to put them into operation.

3. In 1948 and 1949 Drahtwebstuhlbau produced and delivered to the USSR 75 looms, designated as DFL looms, for the weaving of screen ranging from No. 40 to No. 400. The original order was for the production of 95 such looms, but production of 20 looms was then given to the firm Irmischer in Saalfeld, the only other metal loom factory in East Germany. All of these looms, including those produced by Irmischer, were actually delivered to the USSR, and accepted by the Russians.

IV. An indication of Drahtwebstuhlbau's production capacity is the fact that it was unable to take on a new order for April 1951.

PART FIVE: IMMEDIATE FUTURE OF REED PRODUCTION IN NEUSTADT/ORLA

I. Comb Reserves

a. The following table indicates the number of looms in operating condition equipped with No. 231 combs and the reserve stock of No. 231 combs at the individual enterprises in East Germany as of mid-April 1951. These reserve combs are made from Swedish material.

ENTERPRISE	NUMBER OF LOOMS IN OPERATION, PRODUCING NO. 231 SCREEN	NUMBER OF NO. 231 COMBS IN RESERVE
TEWA/Neustadt	51*	None: 2 combs in process
TEWA/Graefenthal	15	3
TEWA/Raguhn	12	None
Baderschneider und Lenzner	29	Estimated 5 combs 1 m None of 1.20 m
Pabst und Kilian	2	None

* Three or four of which are always under repair.

b. Reserves of No. 270 combs (10,000 meshes per square centimeter) according to enterprises are:

TEWA/Neustadt	estimated 15
TEWA/Graefenthal	" 10
TEWA/Raguhn	unknown
Baderschneider und Lenzner	" 15
Pabst und Kilian	none

II. Future Production

A. Because of the loss of qualified personnel, it is reliably estimated that future comb and screen production in Neustadt/Orla will reach an all-time low.

B. This report covers all essential plants now engaged in the nickel wire screen program in the Soviet Zone of Germany.

Next 2 Page(s) In Document Exempt

25X1A

Approved For Release 2002/01/18 : CIA-RDP83-00415R008400060003-9